

Shoreline



Tax season is here. Are you prepared?
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Hospital employee breaks state record.
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Sailors build strong foundation with community.
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Station safety team responds to derailment

By Susan Piedfort
Navy Charleston Shoreline

When a commercial train carrying military ordnance to the Naval Weapons Station derailed at the Bennett Yard in North Charleston Jan. 22, CSX and local officials called on the expertise of the Station's explosives safety and Atlantic Ordnance Command team to defuse a potentially explosive situation.

Thirteen cars, including three carrying military ordnance, derailed at the edge of the rail yard as workers were trying to switch them to another track. Nothing spilled from the containers and no one was hurt, but as crews reached the wreckage during the first hours the morning Jan. 23, the situation started to look worse and worse. The non-military derailed containers were entangled with those carrying munitions, making the explosives inaccessible. Significant railway delays were inevitable all along the east coast, and closure of Interstate 26 and evacuations of the area were being considered.

NWS Safety Explosives Officer Fred Cox arrived at the Bennett Yard at 4:30 a.m., and put in more than 24 hours at the site looking at the damaged containers, inspecting and evaluating the ordnance and advising railroad and emergency officials on the safest procedures. "The safety of

the community was the first priority," Cox said. "My main concern was to get the cars safely back on transportation and into the safe compounds of our Station."

With Cox at the scene was Arvin Foes, deputy to Commander Edward Tulenko, officer in charge of the Atlantic Ordnance Command (AOC) Detachment Charleston. In addition to setting up a 24-hour watch, Tulenko assembled a support team back on Station comprised of USMC Liaison CWO3 Taylor, AOC Material Handler Inspectors

"The safety of the community was the first priority."

Fred Cox

James McNeil and Kenneth Bausley, Admin Officer Donna Walters, Production Controller Isaac Dingle, Traffic Manager Joann Mitchell, Traffic Management Specialist Brenda Haynes and Material Handler Supervisor Leroy Jones. Terry Fletcher and Ron Turnbull of the safety department assisted at the accident site.

At Bennett Yard, Cox and Foes received a safety brief from the CSX hazardous material team and were taken to the accident. That is when its magnitude really hit home.

"I was surprised at what we saw," said Cox, "even in the dark it was a lot worse than I had even imagined." Cox has 40 years of experience working with all types of ammunition and explosives, blending, mixing, pouring and reclaiming them.

"You can't understand the power of derailment until you are crawling between the containers looking at the damage," Foes added. The trucks had been sheared from under the containers, which Foes said looked as if they had been tossed upon each other like pixie sticks.

The police, military explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams and CSX were counting on the Naval Weapons Station to identify the items in the containers, assess their safety and determine if they could be moved. As helicopters circled overhead and Red Cross and medical crews stood by, cranes and ground crews hired by CSX carefully cleared the nonmilitary containers. The painstaking operation to remove the empty cars took all day. Extreme care was taken not to disturb the explosive cars tangled with the others.

According to Cox and Foes, the procedure was a model of interservice cooperation. "Army and Air Force EOD were on scene to make sure explosives were safe to handle and we the Navy team

see Team page 7

Prescribed fire vs. wildfire: Nature's good vs. evil

By Terrence Larimer
Natural Resources Specialist

Wildfire...is fire at the wrong place, the wrong time, and the wrong intensity. Wildfire is uncontrolled by definition and costs South Carolina taxpayers thousands of dollars each year.

Prescribed fire...is the controlled application of fire to woodlands under specified environmental conditions, following appropriate precautionary measures. This controlled application confines the fire to a predetermined area and accomplishes planned land management objectives. Proper use of prescribed fire can reduce the threat of wildfire and benefit woodlands and wildlife.

Why is fire in a woodland setting considered good at one time and bad at another? The answer can be found in almost all facets of nature. Most people will agree that rain is good. Without rain, the forests and wildlife would suffer. However excessive amounts of rain can be ruinous. The same formula applies to fire. The appropriate amount of fire, applied at just the right time, and in just the right amount, is as necessary to the forest and the animals that live there, as rain and sunshine.

The benefits of prescribed fire, first and foremost is fuel reduction. Protecting people and the forests from wildfire is a definite necessity. But the total exclusion of fire from an area results in heavy accumulations of underbrush and ground cover. During extended dry periods, this underbrush becomes vulnerable to wildfire. If a wildfire occurs under these circumstances, a great loss to trees, wildlife and property can be expected. Prescribed fire is effective in reducing naturally occurring fuels within forest areas, particularly those forests in close proximity to urban areas. Reduction of forest fuels lowers the risk of major life-threatening wildfire and reduces the threat of substantial economic losses of timber. It is one of the most effective elements of any fire prevention program...no fuel, no fire.



photo by Bart Jackson

Terrence Larimer ignites underbrush on Naval Weapons Station Charleston during a prescribed burn in January. The burns are part of an effort to reduce the possibility of wildfires.

Prescribed fire vs. wildfire...remember it is good vs. evil. If you smell some wood smoke around the Weapons Station this winter it is most likely a prescribed fire being conducted by Navy Natural Resources personnel on the Station's

Naval Weapons Station Charleston



Mission

To provide ordnance and waterfront management, quality of service and logistic support in a secure multi-service environment.

Commanding Officer

CAPT Robert M. Zalaskus

Executive Officer

LCDR Wesley S. Smith

Business Manager

Rita Schmitt

Command Master Chief

CMDMC(SS) Tim Domrose

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Captain's Log

By Captain Robert M. Zalaskus

Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Charleston

For the Naval Weapons Station, the ringing-in of 2004 has been in the familiar chimes of heavy equipment-bulldozers and backhoes. I like to think of it as the sound of progress as we continue on our strategic plan to support the many station tenants whose mission directly impacts warfighter readiness and national defense.

In all, 14 projects totaling more than \$5 million are underway on the Station and the temporary inconveniences at the Commissary and in other construction areas will be short lived as the majority of these projects will be completed within the next few months. We are continuing a demolition program that will remove more World War II era facilities and structures, ultimately saving the government hundreds of thousands of dollars in operating dollars annually.

These and other projects such as Bachelor Housing renovations now underway are part of a larger plan to support our mission to enhance ordnance and waterfront management, quality of service and logistic support our tenant commands. Likewise, renovations to the Redbank Club and the construction of our new security headquarters building will enhance our ability to support the operations here at NWS while parking modifications at the Commissary, Exchange and MWR Mall at MenRiv Plaza have been designed to enhance our anti-terrorism force protection posture. By the way, in case you are counting as I did, we are actually **increasing** our parking at each affected facility.

CAPT Paul McMahon, CO of Southern Division and our ROINC (CDR Coronado) are

doing a great job executing the many worksites throughout the Station while at the same time commencing the planning phase for projects we will see in the next several years.

One of the forthcoming projects includes anti-terrorism and force protection enhancements at the South Annex, including improvements to the Southside Gate Four. Congress recently authorized \$2.35 million that will greatly improve our ability to receive commercial trucking and even process pass and ID requirements there on the Southside.

In the meantime we continue to look for ways to improve ingress and egress at Gate Four to include the possibility of opening both lanes for one-way traffic during peak usage times, taking alternate traffic at Gate Three. I'm pleased to report that no problems have resulted from the closure of Gate Four from 10 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. during the week and 6 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. on weekends and holidays. We decided to do this after close examination of gate usage and consultation with our tenants. As always, we strive to balance the security responsibilities at our checkpoints, efficient use our personnel resources and meeting the needs of those who live and work on Station.

We are also exceptionally busy in a number of other areas. January kicked-off the first of several major BRAC data calls. This important and large task involves the collation of data needed for our decision-makers in their analysis of what our nation requires for the future. We have begun our controlled burn operations around the Station that will ensure that our 10,000+ acres of undeveloped forested area is protected from the threat of wildfire in the future. The NWS program is the most detailed

and well-developed in the Region. I was also privileged to participate in the ribbon cutting of the "Navy House" supporting Habitat for Humanity, a home construction project culminating more than a year of hard work involving hundreds of Station volunteers and thousands of volunteer hours, all under the leadership of our own RPC Ron Roberts.

Lastly, while we have been busy executing plans, the unplanned can happen upon us. Such was the case week before last when a train carrying ordnance destined for the Naval Weapons Station derailed at the Bennett Yard in North Charleston. We who live or work on Station sometimes take for granted the movement of explosive ordnance on and off the Station, and we are confident that it is handled and stored safely here. But understandably, the contents of the damaged containers caused quite a concern to those living near the site.

Our explosives safety and Atlantic Ordnance Command team was quick to the scene and stayed for the duration, inspecting and evaluating the containers and advising railroad and emergency officials on the safest procedures. The operation would not have been successful without our support at the scene and during the movement of the containers to the Station. The safety of the community was and is always our first priority. Under our careful oversight, the affected containers were moved to the Station without further incident. Without a doubt we'd rather not see this kind of accident happen, but it did offer an opportunity for us to demonstrate the professionalism of our team and the effectiveness of our coordination with state and local emergency management organizations.

Stay focused, stay safe.

MenRiv, 'Paving the way to a new playground'

By Journalist Second Class Christal A. Bailey

Navy Charleston Shoreline

A child's well-being is first and foremost in most parents' minds. That's why MenRiv Elementary School on Naval Weapons Station Charleston, is raising money to build a brand new, safe playground.

The school plans to start construction on a new playground in March. "We needed a new playground because the old equipment was ancient," said Nicole Smolens, Parent Teacher Association President. "Children were getting hurt and getting splinters because the wood on the equipment is so old."

According to Smolens, the proposed playground will ensure the safety of the children because of the material to be used. The updated equipment will include plastic and metal, which will relieve the problems the wood causes. "We want the children to be safe," said Smolens.

To raise funds for the new playground, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is selling engraved bricks that will pave the sidewalk leading onto the playground. The fundraiser started in November 2003, and has the potential of generating \$30,000. The bricks are available to individuals, families, organizations and businesses.

"We really need the support of the surrounding community," said Smolens. "These bricks will be here forever and will commemorate those names engraved on the bricks. We haven't reached the goals we have set, so we hope to get the word out."

Prices for the bricks are \$30 for a 4" x 8" and \$130 for an 8" x 8" brick. For more information on how you can support the MenRiv



photo by JO2 Christal A. Bailey

Nicole Smolens, left, and Barbara Webber stand alongside (from left to right, bottom to top) Jay Smolens, 6; Madeline Fox, 7; Hayden Fox, 9 and Alex Smolens, 9, at the old MenRiv playground equipment, while the children hold the bricks that will pave the way to new playground equipment.

Elementary School "Pave the way to a new playground" project, visit the school lobby to view a sample brick, or call 797-1311.

Volunteer tax office manages time, saves money

By Electronics Technician Third Class Jeanna Gibson
Navy Charleston Shoreline

It's that time of year again; tax season. But, rest assured, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Electronic Filing Office (VITA/ELF) is here to help.

The VITA/ELF office is now ready and waiting to help file this year's income tax returns. Managed by the Naval Legal Service Office, many tenant commands at the Naval Weapons Station Charleston provide the personnel support necessary to run the office successfully. The Navy has offered the free service every tax season since 1993. For at least the last three years, the service has been available on Station for all active duty, reservists, retirees and dependants who want help filing their tax returns.

"Our purpose is to save these folks money in tax preparation fees and get their refund as soon as possible, usually within seven to ten days," says Chief Legalman Bob Yancy, Area Coordinator of VITA/ELF.

This year, in addition to the main office located in building 302, the Naval Nuclear

Power Training Command remote location and the Brig remote location, a new location is being set up at the Nuclear Power Training Unit for service. Every year, the VITA/ELF office prepares in excess of 5,000 tax returns and saves military members over \$400,000 in tax preparation service fees. "The average person can pay anywhere from \$125 to \$165 in tax preparation services. By offering our service, no one has to go out and pay for tax services if they don't want to," said Yancy.

The VITA/ELF office successfully processes and files income tax returns for over 3,500 military members each year. Though the office does not give refund anticipation loans, with the use of electronic filing they can have a refund processed and delivered in seven to ten days. "I like the service. The people are nice and courteous in a friendly atmosphere, and it's free," says Electrician's Mate Second Class DeAndre Haywood as his taxes are prepared.

This service is available Jan. 27 through April 15. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. for

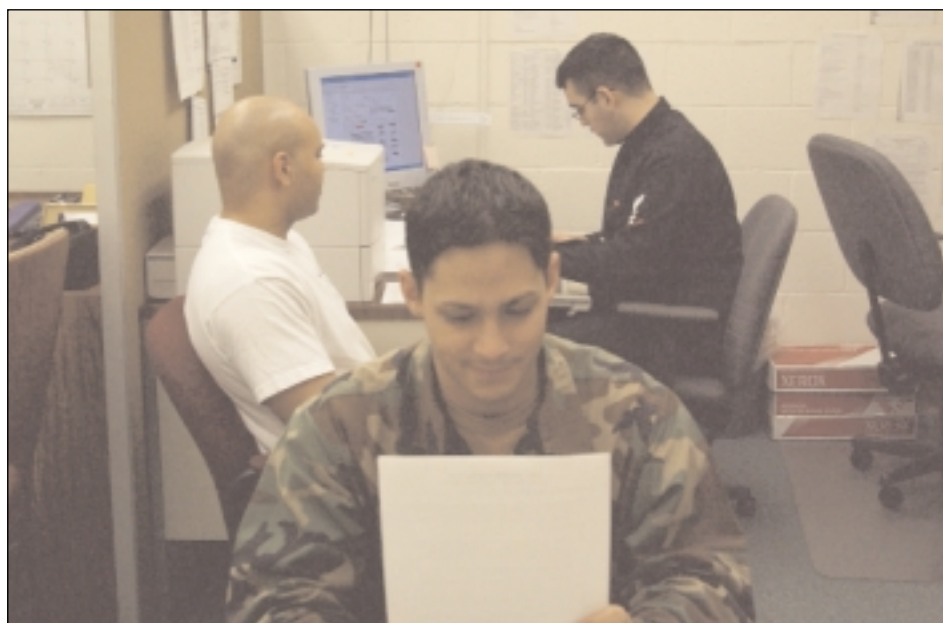


photo by ET3 Jeanna Gibson

MM3 Kelan Carrigan helps MM2 Russell Brewton prepare his taxes while, MASN Robert Sanchez, receptionist, files initial paperwork for another client.

walk-ins, and Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for appointments. Questions can be answered by calling 764-2002 or 764-2003.

President establishes SHARE initiative

The cost of federal workplace injuries, when measured by workers' compensation losses, is more than \$2 billion and 2 million lost production days annually. In fiscal year 2003, the federal workforce of almost 2.7 million filed more than 168,000 injury claims. Behind these numbers lie pain and suffering by workers and their families. Clearly, government agencies should strive to do more to improve workplace safety and health and reduce the costs of injury to workers and taxpayers. Many workplace injuries are preventable.

Therefore, I am establishing SHARE: Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment Initiative, a safe workplace initiative for fiscal years 2004-2006. The initiative's four goals cover the most important elements of a strong safety and health management program: lower workplace injury and illness case rates, lower lost-time injury and illness case rates, timely reporting of injuries and illnesses, and fewer lost days resulting from work injuries and illnesses. The Secretary of Labor will lead the SHARE Initiative and will measure the performance of each department and agency against the goals. I direct all executive branch departments and agencies to participate in SHARE for this three-year period.

Each department and agency will collaborate with the

Department of Labor to establish challenging annual goals based on its current performance in the four areas. The Department of Labor will measure and track agency performance, and will report to me annually on each agency's progress towards meeting its goals. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs will also work with federal departments and agencies to develop new workplace strategies to improve safety and health at high injury rate sites, assist them in improving the timeliness of reporting claims through electronic and other means, and guide them in providing suitable work and tools for injured and disabled employees.

Federal supervisors and managers must focus management tools and resources on eliminating unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. Federal employees should be encouraged to perform their jobs safely, effectively and alertly to remain injury-free. Dedication to ensuring our government workforce family is safe and healthy preserves the resources of government and helps promote the delivery of government services to the American people.

George W. Bush

Briefly Speaking

Actors pay visit to Charleston

"1001 Black Inventions" will be presented by the Pin Points Theatre Group free at the Charleston Air Force Base Theater, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. The base theater is bldg. 219 on Davis Avenue, just off Hill Boulevard. This play takes us into "The Twilight Zone," where a typical American family attempts to survive in a world without inventions created by Africans and African-Americans. The play is presented by a group of actors from Washington D.C., who travel the country to bring the story of how African-American ingenuity is an integral part of our everyday lives. For more information call Lillie Frierson at 820-5719.

FFSC conducts workshop

Naval Weapons Station Charleston's Fleet and Family Support Center will be conducting its first Career Options and Navy Skills Evaluation Program (CONSEP) Feb. 17 to 20 at 7:45 a.m. This four-day workshop will be held at the Career Development and Resource Center. The CONSEP program is the newest quality of life initiative launched and was designed to assist mid-career Sailors in making educated career and life decisions in order to remain competitive throughout the Navy as well as upon completion of their Navy careers. For more information, call Lenzie Crosby at 764-7480, ext. 16.



Congratulations to the following Nuclear Power Training Unit personnel:

NPTU Sailor of the Year, EM1 (SS) Jason Ciaciura; MTS 635 Sailor of the Year, MM1(SS/DV) Joshua Andrews; NPTU Day Staff Sailor of the Year, MM1(SS) Chad Collins; NPTU Junior Sailor of the Year, MM2 Corey Chonsky; MTS 635 Junior Sailor of the Year, MM2 Toi Carde; NPTU Day Staff Junior Sailor of the Year, Shelby Krepps; NPTU Senior Sailor of the Quarter, MM1(SW) Ernest Washington, Jr.; MTS 635 Senior Sailor of the Quarter, EM1(SS) Roy Hoagland II; MTS 626 Senior Sailor of the Quarter, EM1(SS) Jason Ciaciura; NPTU Junior Sailor of the Quarter, STS2(SS) Emary Bryant; MTS 636 Junior Sailor of the Quarter, ET2 Christopher Clark; MTS 635 Junior Sailor of the Quarter, MM2 Michael Simmons.



EM1 Ciaciura
NPTU Sailor of the
Year 2003



MM2 Chonsky
NPTU Junior Sailor
of the Year 2003



MM1(SW) Washington
NPTU Senior Sailor of
the Quarter



STS2(SS) Bryant
NPTU Junior Sailor
of the Quarter

'Buck fever' gives way to small game season

By Terrence Larimer
Natural Resources Specialist

Hunting season at Naval Weapons Station Charleston is transitioning from the big game season of white-tailed deer to small game and waterfowl seasons focused on squirrels, quail, rabbits and ducks.

The heady excitement associated with "buck fever" has given way to the quieter pleasures of a day a field with a well-trained dog and good friends. It is an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts, be they parents and offspring or just happy hunting companions, to enjoy each other's company and take in the pleasures of the lowcountry's winter landscapes.

First, a recap of the season. Deer season on Station was a success in a number of areas. First, the burgeoning deer herd, which increased sharply due to the restric-

tions on hunting following 9/11, was reduced with the best harvest since pre-9/11 seasons. Ninety-two deer were harvested. This number should help lower deer-vehicle collision incidents, deer damage to installation landscape plantings and the Red Bank golf course and provide some relief to an over-browsed deer habitat. Additionally, the possibility of a deer disease die-off due to over-crowding and poor nutrition has been lowered.

Second, Station hunters enjoyed over 8,300 hours of outdoor recreational activity. This is a quality of life benefit provided by the Navy to its Sailors, employees and the public and is very important to those who participate in it. One hundred fifty-six hunters participated in deer hunting and the numbers for small game and waterfowl hunting will bump these figures even higher.

Currently, small game and waterfowl seasons are underway and are being actively pursued by Station hunters. For small game, Marrington is open to Category A and B personnel on weekend mornings only. The Northside area is open to Category A personnel daily. All small game hunters must check in and out with Security at Building 31. Category A personnel are defined as military and civil service employees of the Naval Weapons Station and tenant commands, their spouses and dependent children. Category B includes all other personnel.

Weekend waterfowl hunts in Marrington and the Pier Charlie spoil island are open to both A and B personnel. Waterfowl hunters must pre-register with the Natural Resources office and check in and out with a warden at the hunter check station. To be eligible to use the Station

all hunters and fishers must have the appropriate state and federal licenses as well as a Weapons Station hunting and/or fishing license. Proof of graduation from a state-approved hunter safety course is necessary to purchase a Station hunting license. Station licenses, available at the Outdoor Recreation Center, are free for fishing and \$20 for hunting. Hunting fees are used solely to support Station hunting and fishing management activities such as planting wildlife food plots, erecting wood duck nest boxes, controlling aquatic weeds and stocking fishponds.

The Station's instruction on hunting and fishing (WPNSTACHASNINST 5090.12F) contains complete rules and regulations and is available at the Outdoor Recreation Center. For questions regarding outdoor recreational activity call the Natural Resources Office at 764-7951.

Hospital employee sets state record

Story and photo by Earl Brown
Naval Hospital Charleston

Doug Ricafrente, Naval Hospital Charleston employee, and former employee of Charleston Naval Shipyard, set a new state record for his age group in the bench press by lifting 405 lbs. The record was set at a state competition Jan. 17 at the Winyah Fitness Center in Georgetown, S.C.

Ricafrente is a 58-year-old grandfather and lifts in the Masters Division (55-59) age group, 275 pound weight class. This is not Ricafrente's first record setting event. A resident of Moncks Corner, he has been power lifting and competing for the past 28 years. He has been the state champion for the past 26 years in the Open and Masters Competition. During his 28 years of competition, Ricafrente has won National and World Titles. He won his National Titles in 1987 and 1991 at competitions held in Biloxi, Miss., and Daytona Beach. In addition to competing in the United States, he has also traveled abroad to compete. In 1992, he won the World Masters Power Lifting Title, while competing in Norwich, England.

The lifter's most notable record is the world record for combined lifts. He lifted 722 pounds in the squat, 446.2 pounds in the bench press and 661.2 pounds in the dead lift for a record total of 1829.4 pounds.

While power lifting is important to Ricafrente,



Doug Ricafrente holds the plaque and certificate he received from a state competition for setting the new state record for the bench press.

the more important fact is that he sets his records while competing in drug-free competition. He was recently awarded a plaque recognizing 25 years as a drug-free lifter. Ricafrente said, "The most important thing is when I talk to young lifters I talk to them about lifting correctly so they don't receive an injury. I speak to the youth as part of my ministry about staying drug free and staying in school. I think they listen to me when sometimes they don't listen to their parents."

Team: Ordnance safe on board

Continued from page 1

were in charge of inspecting cars and the explosives, and making sure that cars were secured for transporting to the Station," Cox said. "We all worked together and discussed what had to be done," he added. They also provided technical data to the Army EOD experts on some of the Navy-unique weapons.

"There was also a great amount of cooperation across the board, between CSX, EOD, the CSX hazmat person," said Foes. They had the SOPs in place, they had the equipment needed; there was just a tremendous amount of teamwork all over the place."

By 5 p.m. all but two rail cars blocking the munitions containers were cleared. By 8:15 p.m. it was determined the ordnance was safe to move and North Charleston police decided not to evacuate. The decision was made to transport the ordnance by rail, and the cars were all loaded and moved to a holding area, then secured and covered for the trip back to the Station. A train operations crew from the Public Works Center Jacksonville consisting of Randy Tumbleson, James Green, Riddick Craven and Michael Brannon received the train carrying the damaged containers and moved them a safe location on the Station.

Through the night, and under the close watch of the Naval Weapons Station team, the containers of military ordnance came safely on board, and by the time most area residents woke up the next morning, the potentially dangerous situation was over.

Cox attributes the success of the operation to the outstanding teamwork and support of everyone involved. Early on, CSX vice presidents flew in to the site from Jacksonville, Fla., and met with Cox to discuss the situation. After the meeting the CSX officials told their crew leaders to make sure Cox had whatever he needed to get the track cleared and ammunition to NWS Charleston. Everybody at the site was working toward a common goal.

"Looking back on how many different organizations and different backgrounds of these people, the whole cleanup went very well," Cox said.

Celebrate African-American History Month African-American Firsts

1623 or 1624 The first black person born in America was William, son of Antoney and Isabell, indentured servants.

1777 Vermont became the first state to abolish slavery.

1834 Henry Blair of Maryland was the first black inventor to receive a patent. He invented a corn planter.

1843 Macon B. Allen of Maine was the first black lawyer.

1876 Edward A. Bouchet was the first black to receive a Ph.D. degree from an American university, Yale University.

1904 George Poage was the first black to compete in the Olympics.

1919 Fritz Pollard was the first black professional football player. He was also the first

black coach—he was a player-coach for the Indians. He coached them to a world professional championship in 1920.

1926 The First Negro History Week was observed.

1940 Hattie McDaniel was the first black to receive an Oscar for her supporting role in *Gone With the Wind*.

1956 Nat King Cole was the first black with his own network TV show, *The Nat King Cole Show*.

1986 Navy Lt. Commander Donnie Cochran became the first black pilot to fly with the celebrated Blue Angels precision aerial demonstration team. Debi Thomas was the first black to win a world figure skating championship.

1964 Martin Luther King Jr. was the youngest person awarded the Nobel Peace Prize—he was 35.

1971 Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr. was the first black admiral in the U.S. Navy.

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Habitat for Humanity

Navy gives back to local Charleston community

By Journalist Second Class Christal A. Bailey
Navy Charleston Shoreline

While some people spent the spring and summer months lying on the beach, others used their leisure time laying tile.

In early spring 2003, Naval Weapons Station Charleston and its tenant commands began the extensive process of constructing a Habitat for Humanity home for a local Charleston family.

According to Chief Religious Programs Specialist (SW/AW) Ron Roberts, volunteers gained a great deal of real world experience. "If someone came out every Saturday, from start to finish, they would have learned every aspect of home building," he said. "This is a valuable experience that you can use in your own home."

In addition to learning home-building skills, Roberts said the Habitat for Humanity projects help build a new sense of pride in the neighborhoods. "The neighborhood was once ridden with drug dealers and gangs," he said. "But now a new 'trend' has taken over, and it's quite contagious. The homeowners are literally taking back their neighborhood one house at a time."

Electronics Technician Third Class Edward Grev of Naval Nuclear Power Training Command said he couldn't have thought of a better way to spend his Saturdays. "I loved it. This was the first time I was able to do something for the community," Grev said.

Construction of the home started in April 2003 and was dedicated in January 2004. Marika Cary, executive director of Charleston Habitat for Humanity, said families must undergo a rigorous screening process to be selected for a home. Applicants are required to attend various classes such as parenting and budgeting. Prospective homeowners must also spend time helping build their new home.

"It can take a year to a year and a half to be approved," she said. "The people we select are the backbone of our economy, but are unable to afford a home."

During the dedication ceremony on Jan. 13, homeowner Marcia Taylor said she is excited about her new home. "It's a great feeling to know that I will now have my own home," Taylor said. She, mother of six children ages 11 to 15, advised people seeking a home through Habitat for Humanity be serious and hard working.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that seeks to create housing for low-income families. For more information on upcoming Habitat for Humanity projects, call 579-0777.



June 28th, 2003



Power tools!
(Tim Allen would be proud!)



Framing the walls...



June 28th, 2003



May 17th, 2003



June 21st, 2003



Taking shape...



July 26th, 2003

photos by RPC (SW/AW)

"A hand up....not a hand out"



August 2nd, 2003



Jan 13th, 2004



Favorite time of day!



August 23rd, 2003



Almost there...
What time's lunch?

Although dozens and dozens of Sailors and students turned out to help week after week, this photo depicts just one such group. Many thanks go out to all who helped, and those who continue to do so...



Jan 13th, 2004

Habitat for Humanity® International

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Information & Referral (I&R)

Have you heard!? There is an I&R website called Navy One Source with information for all areas in the states. Go to the Website www.navyonesource.com. More information is added daily to this site..take a look! Do you want to Volunteer? Need information about free income tax preparers on base? Need to talk to a financial counselor? If you need answers to questions, call 764-7294/7480.

Counseling Services

Want to feel better in 2004? Are you feeling stressed with school, your job, or the war? Well, we have trained counselors to help you through this time. You can make an individual appointment or with your spouse. We visit some commands during the day for anyone to talk. If you are an active duty or retiree, spouse of an active duty, retiree, widow, widower or POW family member survivor, you qualify for our free and confidential services. Call 764-7294 for an appointment.

Do you know your Command Family Ombudsman?

Ombudsmen are information and referral people. A command family ombudsman is there to answer questions. Each command has an ombudsman. If you have questions such as: special needs of family member, moving, childcare, or about activities within your spouse’s command, call your command ombudsman or Tommie Provost, 764-7294, ext. 48 to find the name of your ombudsman.

Below is a list of workshops available at Fleet and Family Support Center. For more information, call 764-7294.

WORKSHOP	DATE	TIME
Anger Management	Feb. 19	1:30 - 4 p.m.
Baby Basics	Feb 10	9 a.m. - noon
Pre-separation Counseling Monthly		
Playmornings	Every Wed.	9 - 11:30 a.m.
Stress Management	Feb. 17	1 - 4 p.m.
Volunteer Opportunities	Monday-Friday	8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Can't find what you're looking for here?
Visit The Fleet and Family Support
Center on the Web at
www.nwschs.navy.mil.

Meeting your needs. At home. At sea.



Liberty Program

Unless otherwise indicated, Liberty trips and events are open to All Hands of WPNSTA Charleston and its tenant commands (active duty, civilian, and dependents, ages 18 and up). Sign up for these events at the NNPTC Activity Complex or the Liberty office (building 206, NNPTC Circle). The Liberty office is open from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 764-7002 for more information or check us out on the MWR website at www.mwr.nwschs.navy.mil.

Pool Tournament, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Stop by The Dive and compete for great prizes in our biweekly pool tournaments. The only charge is the cost of the game. For additional information call 764-7002.

Kennedy Space Center Trip, Feb. 13-16

Come with us to the “Sunshine State” to visit the Kennedy Space Center. The price is \$185 per person, which includes transportation, hotel and ticket. Sign up in the Liberty office in building 206 by February 9. For more information call 764-7002.

Skydiving, Feb. 21

Are you looking for some adventure? If you answer yes, then this is the trip for you! We offer static (alone) and tandem (with instructor) jumps. But sign up early; the deadline for this activity is February 18. The cost is \$45-\$125. Call Liberty at 764-7002 for more information.

Frankie's Fun Park, Feb. 22, 1 p.m.

Sign up for transportation to this North Charleston fun park that features go-carts,

video games, miniature golf, and much more. The cost for transportation is \$5 per person and the deadline to sign up is February 18. Please bring questions to the Liberty office in building 206 or call 764-7002.

Outdoor Adventure Center
Rappel Basics Course: Session II:
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 5 to 8 p.m.

Hands-on learning includes rappelling techniques, belaying, knot tying and rope handling skills. Learn about backing up yourself and your partner, rappelling on different devices, and self-rescue techniques. Participants under the age of 12 are not permitted to rappel. Ages 12-16 may rappel with a backup belayer only. Participants under the age of 12 are welcomed to learn knots and climbing technique. Participant limit: 5. Provided gear: harness, ropes, hardware and helmet. Suggested gear: shoes, chalk bags (available for rent). Exertion level: moderate. Prerequisite: Rappel Basic Course I. Fee: \$12 per person. “On Rappel, Rappel on!” The signup deadline is Feb. 16.

Sign up for this outdoor recreational opportunity at the Outdoor Adventure Center. The Outdoor Adventure Center is conveniently located on Fletcher Street in Building 1700, across from Cap’n Robert’s Dive. Hours of operation are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Closed Wednesday; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m. Stop by the Outdoor Adventure Center today or call

764-2122 for more information.

Information, Tickets and Travel
Stingrays ticket vouchers on sale

Ticket vouchers for the South Carolina Stingrays are now on sale at the ITT office for \$10. The vouchers may be purchased for any game and exchanged at the North Charleston Coliseum for seats in the lower 200 sections of the coliseum. Mark your calendar to attend the following home games:

- * Feb. 7-Stingrays vs. Florida
- * Feb. 8-vs. Florida
- * Feb. 13-vs. Charlotte
- * Feb. 17-vs. Florence

Stop by the ITT office for vouchers today or call 764-2120.

SeaWorld Adventure Park, Orlando

It’s totally new and there’s nothing like it in Orlando. A floorless mega-coaster that hurls you underground straight into Kraken’s lair. It twists, loops and drops 149 feet at speeds of 65 miles per hour. With splash-tastic Shamu, you’ll witness the majestic power, beauty and magic of the biggest star at SeaWorld. Experience non-stop thrills with a journey to Atlantis. Hang on for two of the steepest, wettest water coaster drops ever. Take the plunge on a super-charged water-coaster of mythic proportions. Tickets at the ITT office are \$44.50 for adults and \$36.80 for children (ages 3-9). Stop by the ITT office, or call 764-2120 for more information.

Universal Orlando

Introducing a new Orlando vacation

alternative. Not one, but two amazing theme parks side-by-side, plus the happening nightlife of Orlando’s hottest entertainment complex. It’s all conveniently located just a few steps apart. It’s the only place on earth that makes movies, TV, music, literature and pop culture and converts them into high-speed thrills, 3-D excitement and unparalleled adventure. It’s time to leave the ordinary behind. Universal Orlando is a vacation from the ordinary. One-day ticket prices at the ITT office are \$46.95 for adults and \$37.10 for children (ages 3-9). Two-day ticket prices are \$86.15 for adults and \$70.95 for children. Stop by the ITT office for your tickets or call 764-2120 for more information.

The ITT office accepts VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express on all ticket purchases. For more information, call 764-2120.

Golf

On Feb. 21, the Redbank Plantation Golf Association will have a Best Two Balls of Four golf tournament at Redbank Plantation Golf Course. This four- man team tournament will have a format of the best two balls of four using maximum handicaps. Prizes will be awarded according to participation. Make your own team. The cost for this tournament is \$15 per person plus cart and greens fees. Sign up for this tournament at Redbank Plantation Golf Course or call 764-7802 for more information. Please note that all golfers are welcome to participate in the association tournaments.

Family & Housing News

Yard of the Month Program

With spring approaching, the Housing Department is making plans to restart our "Yard of the Month" program in April. This program recognizes those residents who maintain the exterior of their quarters in an exemplary manner. Historically, we select one Yard of the Month recipient and one Honorable Mention recipient from each of our four neighborhoods during the summer months. The families that receive the "Yard of the Month" award are honored with a sign in their yard, and are presented a photograph of their house, a letter of recognition, and a plaque. Also, they may use a reserved parking space at the Naval Weapons Station Charleston Commissary during their month of tenure. Recipients of the Honorable Mention award are recognized by sign displayed in their yard, and are presented a letter of recognition and photograph of their home. This is a great time to review the program and make any appropriate changes. We've researched other Housing activities' programs. Some present winners a hanging basket plant; others place a sign in the yard and provide residents a photograph. We're interested in hearing any ideas and suggestions you have for updating this recognition program. Please call Cheryl Harris or Joyce Langford at 764-7218 to provide your input. We'll need to have your ideas by March 15.

For those residents who have not worked on the exterior of their quarters, now is the time to prune those overgrown shrubs. Don't forget, the Self-Help Store has lawn and garden equipment and tools available for checkout. We'll be sponsoring our Adopt-a-Plant Program in April, so be sure to check next month's issue of the Shoreline for the scheduled date.

The Housing Department will also perform springtime sprucing up - pruning trees and sweeping streets.

Attention pet owners

The Housing department has received an increased number of reports of pets roaming our neighborhoods and has had several biting incidents. Residents are reminded that all pets must be registered with the Housing Welcome Center. Protect your pet privileges. Letters of warning to pet owners will be issued for pets running loose in the Housing areas. In cases of unprovoked animal bite, the animal will be removed from the Housing area and your pet privileges will be revoked for the duration of your stay in Housing. If you see a stray animal,

contact the Animal Control Officer or the Security Department.

Family Housing birth announcements

Congratulations to ENS James Abbott and his wife, Corina, on the birth of their son, Theon James Abbott, born Dec. 29, 2003. Theon weighed eight pounds, 15 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Theon has an older brother, Saegis, and a sister, HeliAnna.

If you would like your baby's birth announced in Shoreline, call Cheryl Harris, Housing Welcome Center, 764-7218/7219.

Clothes dryer vent

Residents of Family and Bachelor Housing are strongly urged to periodically check their clothes dryer vents, especially the outside wall, to ensure they are clear of lint accumulation. Dryer vents with a plastic grill attached on the outside end of the vent tend to accumulate a buildup of lint more quickly and require more frequent cleaning. On this type of vent, the plastic grill snaps off and on and removal of lint buildup is easily accomplished. For residents living in upstairs units, who notice an excess accumulation of lint, the Housing Department's maintenance service desk should be called to issue a work order since the dryer vent is beyond reach.

Attention to this item is very important for several reasons. A restricted or blocked clothes dryer vent could result in burnout of the motor or, even worse, a fire.

Need an extension in base housing?

Extension requests:

- * Must be made 30 days in advance of transfer or separation date.
- * Must be made in writing to Commanding Officer, Naval Weapons Station Charleston (Code 55) via member's command.
- * In cases where members are transferring out of the area on PCS orders, requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- * In most cases of separation from active duty, 60-day extension is the maximum that may be approved.
- * In all cases, after separation from active duty, rent is required to be paid. Monthly rental amount is equivalent to member's monthly Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) entitlement. Failure to make rental payments when due will result in termination of quarters' assignment.

Housing Department says goodbye

Roberta Stanley, Personnel Support Division Director, is leaving the Housing Department to take on a new, challenging position as bachelor housing manager in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Stanley reported to the Housing Department in August 2001. Her efforts improved the Family Housing Program by providing excellent housing service to over 6,000 military personnel assigned to the Charleston Area. Her customer oriented attitude and professionalism have greatly enhanced the image of excellence in the quality of products and services provided by Naval Weapons Station Charleston Housing Department.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas"

BEQ Employee Spotlight

CS1(SW/AW) Michael Barnes

Culinary Specialist First Class (SW/AW) Michael Barnes is the newest member of the Bachelor Housing staff. His previous duty stations include the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), Naval Hospital Charleston, and USS

O'Bannon (DD 987). Barnes has three daughters, Krystle, Michelle, Ashley and one son, Michael Jr. In his off-duty time, Barnes enjoys music, sports, running, and spending time with his kids.



Note: When transferring to intermediate duty or duty under instruction, not to exceed 11 months, a letter is not required. However, a copy of orders must be provided the Housing Welcome Center. In all cases, Notice of Intent to Vacate is required to be filed 30-days in advance of approved extension date.

Who is your housing assistant?

Tenants may now have a new Housing Management Assistant (Inspector). Below, a list of our Housing Management Assistants, a phone number where they can be reached and their housing areas of responsibility.

* Walter Ullman, 764-7228, Ext. 29: Boone Avenue, Edison Street, Hale Street, Hamilton Street, Henry Street, Houston Street, Jefferson Avenue, Lafayette Street, Lafayette Circle, Marshall Street, Rayburn Street, Tecumseh Avenue, and Teddy Roosevelt Circle.

* Mark Balzanelli, 764-7228, Ext. 34: Bancroft Circle East, Bancroft Circle West, Bancroft Court, Bancroft Street, Bolivar Street, Kamehameha Street, Key Circle, Key Court, Key Street, Monroe Street, Polk Court, Polk Street, Vallejo Circle, Vallejo Street, Von Steuben Street (1-28) and, Webster Street.

* Judy Peloquin, 764-7228, Ext. 30: Ararat Court, Cote Bas Road, Hickory Hall Lane, Keklico Court East, Keklico Court West, Longwood Court, Marrington Circle, Nemo Way, Old Tom Road, Parnassus Road, Pulaski Court North, Pulaski Court South, Pulaski Street, Pulaski Circle, Von Steuben Circle North, Von Steuben Circle South, Von Steuben Court North, Von Steuben Court South, and Von Steuben Street (29-76).

* Sharl Maynor, 764-7228, Ext. 27: Chanticleer Street, Coucal Street, Guadalcanal Street (22, 24-83A), Kittiwake Street, Knutson Street (21, 23, 25), Ortolan Street, and Petrel Street

* Terri Richardson, 764-7228, Ext. 31: Edwards Street, Fletcher Circle, Fletcher Street, Florikan Circle, Florikan Street, Gearing Street, Guadalcanal Street (1-21, 23), Knutson Street (1-20, 22, 24), Sunbird Street, Tringa Court East, Tringa Court West, and Tringa Street.

